

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): **P. E. Thomas and
T.P. Marsh**

Examiner: **M. Hand**

Group/Art: **3761**

Application No.: **10/600,181**

Confirmation No: **9696**

Filing Date: **June 20, 2003**

Atty. Docket No. **243 CON**

Title: **ACQUISITION DISTRIBUTION LAYER HAVING VOID VOLUMES FOR
AN ABSORBENT ARTICLE**

Filed Electronically by Marc S. Segal on June 23, 2006

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT
AMENDMENT DATED APRIL 27, 2006**

Sir:

This Reply is being filed in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 27, 2006, having a one-month shortened statutory period for response that expired on May 27, 2006. Applicants note, however, that the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 27, 2006 was not post-marked until June 2, 2006, a few days after the one-month shortened statutory period for response. A copy of the envelope showing the post-mark of June 2, 2006 is enclosed. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the extension of time fee be waived. If this request is declined, please charge the extension of time fee and any additional fees required to continue the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account 19-5425.

Applicants' Remarks begin on page 2. Applicants also enclose a replacement of the Figure 2 from U.S. Patent No. 4,323,069 (Ahr).

REMARKS

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 27, 2006, the Examiner found applicants' amendment document filed on April 17, 2006 non-compliant because the "amended drawings" were "not properly identified in the top margin as 'Replacement Sheet,' 'New Sheet,' or 'Annotated Sheet.'"

In reply, Applicants note that the figure enclosed with applicants' amendment was not intended to amend the drawings of the present application. Rather, the figure is an enlarged version of a figure from U.S. Patent No. 4,323,069 (Ahr), which the Examiner asserted in the Office Action dated January 11, 2006 as anticipating and rendering obvious certain claims of the present application. Applicants submitted the figure as an Exhibit in support of their arguments that the present application is patentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,323,069. To avoid any further confusion, applicants resubmit that figure from U.S. Patent No. 4,323,069 with a label indicating that the figure is an Exhibit and is not intended to amend the drawings of the application.

In light of the above, an early and favorable response is earnestly requested. The Office is invited to contact the undersigned counsel if there are any other questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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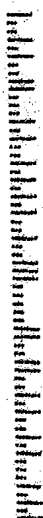
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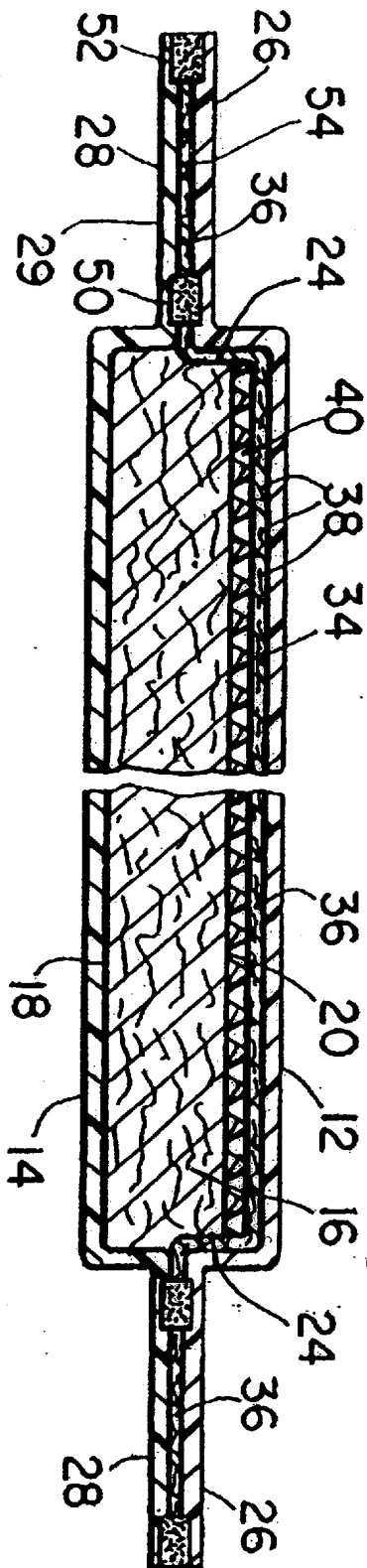


Fig. 2